

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 14-17 and 19 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the patent to Tesson, U.S. 4,268,190. The Examiner will note that applicant's independent claims 14 and 16 have been amended to incorporate specific language that delineates an adaptor containing a tapered articulating wedge and a spring in the cable-gripping elements, which elements operate with two aligned hydraulic cylinders to pull and release the cable in sequence. A close review of Tesson reveals that this patent fails to teach or suggest any such structure. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that applicant's claims 14-17 and 19 are patentable over the Tesson patent, since dependent claims 15, 17 and 19 depend from applicant's amended independent claims 14 and 16, respectively. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of applicant's claims 14-17 and 19 in light of the extensive amendments to independent claims 14 and 16, is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner further rejected claims 14-17 and 19 as anticipated by the patent to Ahlgren, U.S. Reissue 31,206. Independent claims 14 and 16 have been amended as indicated above. A close review of Ahlgren reveals that, like the Tesson patent, this patent fails to teach or disclose an adaptor and a tapered articulating wedge which is spring-biased into contact with the cable in each of a pair of linearly-aligned cable-gripping elements as set forth in applicant's amended independent claims 14 and 16. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of applicant's remaining claims 14-17 and 19 is respectfully solicited.

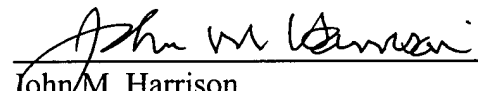
The Examiner also rejected claims 18 and 20 under Ahlgren, taken in view of the patent to Brown, U.S. 3,747,675. The Examiner will note that claims 18 and 20 have been cancelled, thereby removing the basis for this rejection.

Claims 1-11 stand allowed and claims 21-22 are objected to as being dependent upon a

rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 21 has been amended to depend from applicant's claim 17, while claim 22 depends from claim 21. Accordingly, since applicant's claim 17 depends from amended independent claim 16 as described above, reconsideration and allowance of applicant's claims 21 and 22 as the result of this dependence, is respectfully solicited.

Every effort has been made to amend applicant's claims in order to define his invention in the scope to which it is entitled. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of applicant's remaining claims 14-17, 19, 21 and 22 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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